

**Iowa Telecommunications & Technology Commission  
Grimes State Office Building, 1st Floor  
400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319**

**FINAL**

**April 17, 2013**

To ensure the most efficient use of State resources, the April 17, 2013, ITTC telephonic meeting was held via telephonic conference call pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8. A teleconference call also ensured more Commissioners were able to participate in the meeting and reduced the risk of delays caused by weather or other impediments to travel. The meeting was accessible to members of the public through attendance at the Grimes State Office Building.

**Commissioners Present**

Richard Bruner, Chair (on-site)  
Robert R. Hardman, Member (via telephone)  
Timothy Lapointe, Member (on-site)  
Kathleen Kohorst, Member (via telephone)

**Iowa Communications Network Staff Present:**

Dave Lingren, Executive Director  
Mark Johnson, Administration Director  
Phil Groner, Business Services Manager  
David Marley, Network Operations and Engineering Manager  
Ric Lumbard, Network Operations and Engineering Director  
Deb Evans, Finance Manager  
Lori Larsen, Communications Director  
Jontell Harris, Director of Government Relations  
Marcia Page, Executive Secretary  
Carmelita Doke, Receptionist (Recorder/Minutes)

**Guests:**

Joe Hrdlicka, Iowa Telecommunication Association (ITA)  
Joe Coon, AEA 9 (via telephonic)  
Lincoln Grimes, Iowa Network Services

**Call to Order**

Chair Bruner called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. It was noted that a quorum of members were present for the meeting.

**Table the approval of the 03/27/2013 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Bruner moved to table approval of the 03/27/2013 minutes.

**Old Business**

**Video@Lightspeed (formerly VSP) Update – Rick Lumbard**

The new video IP product called ICN Video@Lightspeed 1.0 has been released internally. This has been made an available bridge as of April 01, 2013. ICN has transitioned the internal early adopters over to the platform. A product document packet was provided for this meeting including two technical documents. One document specifies this product release internally. Once management approves it, then it will go to Business Services so the product can be prepared for general availability to the stakeholders of the ICN. This product has been running successfully.

ICN had one high-valued customer that was in the process of moving during spring break and ICN was able to convert an entire college who had decided not to use ICN's traditional video services. The school had developed their own product platform and it was installed. In the first week of April, ICN moved 27 video rooms at Indian Hills Community College back to the ICN to provide video services through ICN scheduling. Indian Hills has 27 new circuits currently on the Video@Lightspeed product platform. On Wednesday, ICN had 60 concurrent ports active on the new platform. Last year there were 12. There are several on-going enhancements and increases that are in development at this time. Once Business Services is comfortable with the general announcement, additional customers will be transitioned to the new video platform.

Q. Customers who wish to manage their own codecs will be deployed on the public network. How does that work? Does this allow people who are thinking about getting their own codecs to come back with ICN? Is that the idea?

A. In this case, Indian Hills purchased their own codecs. In reference to their circuits, ICN would be providing the backup technical support. This will also provide the opportunity to bring in customers from the outside and they will be able to manage their own codecs as well. There are two ways into this bridge. The customer can access us by the public internet or access us by dedicated private circuit that ICN installs. Indian Hills Community College provided their codecs and ICN provided 27 circuits.

Q. Are there different pricing options depending upon what a customer provides versus what ICN provides?

A. ICN can lease a codec through Business Services; however, there is just one product at this point which is a standard fixed rate for unlimited use out to the video bridge. So it is a very easy product selection currently.

Q. How does guest access work?

A. Guests will be able to access the video platform if they have the correct access information. Currently, there is no charge for guest access. At this time, the product is on a unlimited basis and there is no charge for this service. ICN will have to monitor and watch the progress in the future to see what happens as we are watching the number of concurrent ports. This is utilizing our Video Scheduling System (VOSS). We schedule these services and have planned events. All of Indian Hills Community College's events were scheduled through our VOSS system.

Q. That's great. Will that be true of other users that will continue to use the scheduling services?

A. It could be true. Although, they do have options to go ad-hoc also. We are now looking at advanced scheduling options for the next waiver of release which will give ICN more scheduling options for the H.323 IP Video service.

Q. (Commissioner Hardman, via telephone) Do you have any early innovators in line?

A. We had several early adopters that were already in the queue and were all transitioned to the platform in March. We have had Joe Coon, who was an early adopter, transition to the platform

as well. With Indian Hills Community College alone, that opens the doors for many other community colleges that are waiting and watching to see if they want to have the same services made available to them.

Phil Groner, ICN Business Services manager interjected, “There are a lot of school districts in the queue, as indicated, because over the past 12 to 18 months ICN has been on the verge of making a decision on what to do with their MPEG II full-motion classroom. Customers have also been told by ICN that this product and service will be available, so they have refrained from making the decision of closing a classroom or discontinuing classrooms knowing about this service becoming available. Many schools are lined up to start implementing this service.”

Q. Could you give the Commissioners an example of a typical classroom set up under this scenario?

A. ICN is not necessarily providing all of the classrooms with new equipment. In the case of Indian Hills, they are keeping their equipment the same and ICN is just exchanging the codec from an MPEG codec to a different codec. Indian Hills had to a new H.323 codec integrated into the room. Other rooms as in the case of AA9, they are rebuilding the new rooms and building a whole new room around a new codec. It gives the customers the option of how the rooms can be built and either to keep, maintain, redesign or go into a newer more innovative design or keep it “old school” with their codec. So there are options.

Q. It was mentioned earlier that Indian Hills Community College switched out their codec, will they keep have the capability to retaining both the old way and the newer capabilities?

A. No, with the case of Indian Hills, since they had only a limited opportunity of a spring break timeframe to complete the work, either ICN showed up or they weren’t going to have it done. The old codec as far as the old equipment is not set up to be in line right now.

Q. But we can have video sessions that involve both technologies together; correct?

A. That is correct. You can mix video sessions together.

Q. There was the option of using both the legacy and the new equipment. That should make it easier for customers to make decisions too.

A. Yes that is correct.

Q. Are we billing for this service?

A. Not yet.

## **Video for Commissioners – Ric Lumbard**

At the last ITTC meeting, it was discussed that ICN didn’t have the video desktop application product ready for the Commissioners at that time. Here is where ICN is at with the Conversion Management Application Desktop (CMAD) today. The desktop application concept for a video solution requires a lot of unique aspects out of the desktop. Right now we are not ready to provide that service at a desktop

level and still feel that this is not a strong customer ready product or roll out ready. ICN Engineering is waiting until we can provide a stable product and then test for general availability.

ICN Engineering is currently pulling down the old CMAD server and having a new server in place called Resource Manager. All people on test with the CMAD right now will disappear. As soon as the new platform has been tested to see if it is stable, and once it has been re-evaluated. At that time, vendors will do a full-product use case, test all of it, and once it passes the test internally and it can be used in the ICN internally, and before it is tested for general availability to the public, then it will be ready for Commissioners.

### **BTOP Grant Update – Dave Lingren**

The final due date for this project will be June 30, 2013. The goals were to strengthen the ICN fiber optic core and make it available to the Healthcare, Education and Public Safety and other groups that ICN serves and to deal with the ever increasing bandwidth demands. ICN has also worked with private sector companies to make improvements to the bandwidth in some locations. ICN has only two months left and this project is 90 percent complete. There has also been a lot of transition of different contractors and managerial staff taking over the project. We are on target at this time and meeting all the requirements as expected.

### **Request for Proposal (RFP) Update – Jontell Harris**

The deadline for responses to be submitted for the RFP for the sale or lease of the ICN is April 30, 2013. The deadline to submit questions regarding the RFP was yesterday, April 16, 2013. Feedback has been received from potential offerors and options are being explored regarding extending our internal RFP deadline while adhering to the statutory deadline of June 30, 2013. Holding an additional Offerors Conference to allow an on-the-spot question and answer period has been suggested by potential offerors. However, after consultation with the Attorney General's Office, ICN has been advised not to hold such a conference given the restrictions imposed by state procurement rules of the RFP process.

A response will be sent out to communicate that ICN will not be holding another conference. However, there might be another option regarding the deadline for the proposals coming in. Given the fact there was a Senate concurrent resolution that was passed and not taken up by the House, it appears that legislative action is not going to happen on this issue. So ICN examined how an extension might fit the deadline of June 30, 2013 and all other dates that have been established internally prior to that. ICN would like the Commission to approve an extension of the deadline for proposals to be submitted in response to the RFP as determined by the staff and include the date to be announced to the vendors by no later than tomorrow morning. The deadline would be past April 30, 2013 but would still allow ICN to meet the June 30, 2013 deadline. This would allow us to receive all responses and conditions when preparing to report to the Governor. This will also allow an extension for the Resource Room availability.

Commissioner Kohorst made the motion to extend the deadline for responses to the RFP and allows the staff to determine the deadline of the extension. Commissioner Hardman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hardman – Yes  
Commissioner Kohorst – Yes  
Commissioner LaPointe – Yes  
Commissioner Bruner – Yes

## Legislative Update – Mark Johnson

According to the legislative schedule, there is only about two and a half weeks left of the legislative session to be completed by the May 3, 2013 deadline. There has been discussion about a special session to be held to deal for some issues that are outstanding in the legislative office.

House File 603, which is the Administrative Regulation Budget Bill, was passed by the House and went through the Senate Appropriations Committee. An amendment was adopted and is on the debate calendar in the Senate for today. This does not necessarily mean that a decision will be made. This bill involved the RTC funding request and the intent language that ICN talked with the House and Senate about. The House did not insert this language; however, Senator Matthews agreed to put the language in her amendment and submit it in the Senate amendment to this House File. Once action has been taken, we will see if the House accepted the amendment as a whole or if it goes to Conference Committee.

The Infrastructure Appropriations Bill will start in the House. No appropriation bill number has been assigned yet, but an LSB number will be brought up in the full Appropriations Committee today in the House. This includes our equipment appropriation, a total of \$2.25 million dollars, which includes \$1.1 million dollars for the Capital Complex phone system and \$1.15 million dollars for equipment replacement on the ICN network that is then used as the qualifying investment as a common carrier to receive the Universal Service fund dollars to support educational and library users. That language should be in the House bill as well.

Until last year the funding went through the Regional Telecommunications Council (RTC) and was allocated to Iowa Public Television (IPTV). Last year the funding was moved to ICN. We are the administrators of the funding to oversee that there is an equal distribution of those funds. This funding is used for the regional colleges, the Area Educational Agencies (AEAs) and the local colleges to help manage their Local Area Network (LAN) and their video rooms. The usual intent language had been included in the House bill; however, when this bill was moved to ICN last year, a discussion was had with the Auditor's Office to bring more clarity to the requirements related to that funding and how it was to be distributed. So there is new language that hasn't been seen before. This language did not get inserted in the House, and when discussed with the co-chair, there was no issue with the language; it just didn't get inserted into the amendment in time. There is no anticipation that this will raise an issue but it will call for more accountability of the funding.

*Meeting with the Educational Telecommunication Council (ETC)* – Dave Lingren and Lori Larsen met with the ETC earlier with week. There will be a follow-up on this topic in the next ITTC meeting that Lori will present. The ETC is excited about some matters that were proposed to them by ICN and eliminated some of the tedious work of accounting but at the same time brought fairness to how the funding was distributed among the different RTC regions and to also make sure the taxpayer money is being spent appropriately.

Q. (Commissioner Hardman, via telephone) Did we have any further suggestions from the State Auditor's office?

A. ICN worked with Auditor's Vaudt's Office because the RTC regions were telling ICN that the process was tedious and did not reflect the true process of what was going on. What was presented to the ETC is that ICN would go back and look at the percent of billing that ICN has

by region. So that would demonstrate usage of services, not only the video but also the internet. So we decided to indicate the amount of services they used by percentage to the other regions that are billed by ICN. There is a set amount given to all the educational entities involved and then the amount is distributed by percentage of billing. During the meeting with ETC, they spoke favorably of the recommendation to do this and that agreed that it was a fair process. Then the responsibility of the money would be accountable within the RTC regions and they would take responsibility of distributing exactly what was needed within their group.

## **New Business**

### **Action – Waivers – Phil Groner**

*Des Moines Area Community College Waiver* – Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) sent an email to ICN indicating their desire to withdraw their waiver request. They were asking to partner with Iowa Health Systems. Iowa Health Systems acquired an National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) BTOP grant, like the ICN, and deployed a network to connect to their hospitals. In addition to that, they formed an organization to provide and sell excess capacity called HealthNet Connect. HealthNet went to DMACC and said that they had a valuable service to provide redundancy to their locations. These would be supplemental connections to the ICN connections that are given to DMACC and their area campuses. However, the bill was made to build out to make those connections back into the Iowa Health Systems core network. They proposed that DMACC needed to get a NTIA grant to make those connections. DMACC was unable to get the grant to do so and no connections will be made by HealthNet Connect to DMACC campuses. No action item is needed on the DMACC waiver because it has been withdrawn.

Q. Could you give a background update on the new HealthNet Connect and are they going to be going out in the market place suggesting similar situations?

A. Yes, they already have. There is no information on what their success has been. ICN has spoken with DMACC about internet access to redundant connections. There has been talk to get the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program (IRHTP) network and the HealthNet Connect networks to talk to each other for hospitals and clinics that need to exchange data. ICN Director, Dave Lingren, who met with the head of the HealthNet Group a few months ago, said that there will not be any connection between them and the ICN by code and ICN would not support any exchange in our network. Our connections will be for authorized users only.

Q. And now Iowa Health Systems is changing their name to Unity Healthcare.

A. Yes, that's correct.

*Hawkeye Community College Waiver* –Hawkeye Community College has a current waiver approved by the Commission for long distance service. They acquired that waiver because they needed Caller ID on their outbound and inbound long distance calls. ICN has several community colleges who acquire waivers because there is a lot of soliciting of alumni and want to make sure if they were making an outbound LD call that their Automatic Number Identification (ANI) could be displayed to see who was calling. However, in the past year, ICN was able to update and upgrade our long-distance service to be able to include ANI and Caller ID on that call. Hawkeye Community College is looking to transition to ICN; however, they had acquired a contract that went beyond their waiver request. Their waiver request today is for the Commission to extend of their waiver to June 30, 2013. This will allow ICN

and Hawkeye Community College time to transition off of the current LD contract and move their services back to ICN.

Commissioner Lapointe moved to extend the waiver for Hawkeye Community College to the deadline of June 30, 2013. Commissioner Hardman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hardman – Yes  
Commissioner Kohorst – *Response was not received*  
Commissioner LaPointe – Yes  
Commissioner Bruner – Yes

Since Commissioner Kohorst did not vote, a quorum was not represented for this action. It will be communicated to the Hawkeye Community College that there was a favorable recommendation by the staff but there was no quorum. This action will have to be tabled until the next ITTC meeting to be re-voted upon.

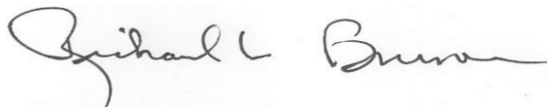
**Other Business** – Commissioner Bruner

State Auditor Vaudt is moving on to be chair for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) which is a national board to establish and improve standards of state and local governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is a great move for him and for the GASB. He has been a member of the ITTC for a long time. The Commission has been very appreciative of the time and hours spent on a number of projects and State Auditor Vaudt has been a very valuable asset of the ITTC.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Lapointe moved that the meeting be adjourned. The ITTC meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

ATTESTED TO:



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Richard Bruner, Chair, Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission